(d) (i) The apprentices get monthly stipend during their training period.

(ii) The apprentices acquire skill for gainful wages or self employment

Keeping in view of the above, the career of wards of working classes get a clear direction for their future development.

Retrenchment of Workers from Rourkela Steel Plant

1892. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers retrenched from Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the reasons why those workers have been thrown out employment;

(c) whether Government propose to provide them re-employment in those plants; and

(d) if not, the alternative employment scheme thought about retrenched workers of Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, no worker in Rourkela Steel Plant has been retrenched.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Unemployment Problem

1893. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of unemployment upto 30th June, 1995 and what is expected increase by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; State-wise; and

(b) the strategy made by Government to solve the unemployment problem in the country particularly in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Total unemployment in the country as on 30th June, 1995 has not been estimated. Unemployment as in March 1995 is estimated to be for the order of 18.7 million. The State-wise break-up of this estimate is not available. The principal elements of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan are a geographically and cropwise diversified agricultural growth, expansion and diversification of the rural non farm sector, promotion of small and decentralised manufacturing sector expansion of infrastructure, housing and health and educational services faster growth of services and informal sector activities and greater flexibility in special employment programmes and their integration with sectoral development programmes. A continuation of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan in the period 1997-2002 is expected to reduce unemployment to negligible levels by 2002.

Scope of adjudication by Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum

1894. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enlarge the scope of adjudication by the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum by bringing under its purview disputes arising from health, medical services and share markets, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the high power working committee set up by Government to suggest comprehensive amendments to the Consumer Disputes Redressal Act and of those which have been accepted/not accepted by Government or are still under consideration; and

(d) the number of cases at present pending with the District Consumer Forums (State-wise) and steps taken so far for their early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) On the recommendations of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Government had constituted a High Powered Working Group to suggest suitable amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective and purposeful. The Working Group, in its report, has recommended to bring under